(b) The aforesaid amount has been earmarked for implementation of the schemes sanctioned for modernisation and has been almost fully utilised.

(c) There has been a general improvement in production, productivity and efficiency in jute mills which have under taken programme of modernisation but it is too early to quantify the exact extent of such improvement due to modernisation.

(d) Does not arise.

Setting up of Marine Products Export Development Authority

5258. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have set up a Marine Products Export Development Authority;

(b) if so, the basic objectives thereof;

(c) when the authority came into being; and

(d) the various works and programmes undertaken by the authority so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The basic objectives are:

i) Conservation and management of fishery resources and development of off-shore and deep-sea fishing;

ii) Registration of exporters and processing plants;

iii) Regulation of marine products export;

iv) Laying down standards and specifications;

v) Rendering financial or other assistance and acting as an agency for extension of relief and subsidy as per directions from Government;

vi) Helping the industry in relation to market intelligence, export promotion and import of essential items;

vii) Imparting training in different aspects of the marine products industry, with special reference to quality control, processing and marketing;

viii) Promotion of commercial shrimp farming; and

ix) Promotion of joint ventures in deep-sea fishing, aqaculture, production, processing and marketing of value-added seafood.

(c) The Authority came into being on 30th April, 1972 by an Act of Parliament.

(d) In order to boost country's marine exports, Marine Products Export Development Authority (MPEDA) has undertaken various developmental activities which include:

i) Providing guidance and necessary assistance in increasing production through capture fisheries;

ii) Development of culture fisheries for augmenting export production through aquaculture farms;

iii) Encouraging the seafood entrepreneurs in setting up processing plants for exports of value-added products;

iv) Dissemination of market intelligence pertaining to the seafood industry; and

v) Administering various subsidy schemes of Government for modernising the sea-food export industry.

Foreign Exchange Earnings from Export of Diamonds

5259. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by the Government by exporting diamonds during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether there is large scope to increase the export of diamonds;

(c) if so, the target set for 1991-92; and

(d) the steps taken to increase diamond export?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) The year-wise value of exports for the last three years of cut and polished diamonds, according to the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, was as follows:

Year	*Rs. in Crores*
1988-89	4238
1989-90	4972
1990-91	4739

(b) and (c). Diamond exports depend on the economic conditions in the countries that are our major buyers. Keeping in view the recessionary conditions in some of these countries and the depreciation in the Indian rupee, a tentative export target for 1991-92 of Rs. 5700 crores has been fixed.

(d) The Government has taken measures to facilitate supplies of imported raw material for export of diamonds. The adjustment in the exchange rate of the Indian rupee would also make our exports more competitive.

Shortage of Fund in financial Institutions

5260. SHRI RAMESH CHAND TOMAR:
SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:
SHRI CHETAN P.S. CHAUHAN:
SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA: